

AQUIFER PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2004

The Aquifer Protection Committee is charged with the responsibility of reviewing, discussing and providing recommendations to other Town boards on issues pertaining to the protection of aquifers in the Town of Amherst. The main concern of the Committee is safeguarding the integrity of the Lawrence Swamp Aquifer, which supplies approximately 50% of the potable water in Amherst. The Committee meets in a public meeting, when appropriate, to discuss technical issues related to the aquifers. These issues include: 1) review of proposed work plans by Tighe and Bond, the Town's water supply consultant; 2) design of water quality monitoring programs; 3) review and evaluation of consultant reports; 4) consultation to representatives from the DPW or the Conservation and Planning departments on policies and activities affecting land use change within the aquifer protection district and recharge area. We are also available for technical support at Town Meetings when needed. We occasionally become involved in special projects in cooperation with faculty and students from one of the local colleges. We oversee and provide guidance on any project that involves investigation of the Town's groundwater resources. The Committee is comprised of four professional hydrogeologists and two laypersons.

The Committee met on December 17, 2003 to discuss updates on the following three issues: 1) Sewer Master Plan; 2) GIS mapping of the Lawrence Swamp Aquifer; and 3) results of water quality testing in aquifer monitoring wells. Members present at the December 17, 2003 meeting included Stephen B. Mabee, chair; Lyons Witten, Jesse Schwalbaum, Michelle Matteo, Chad Johnson, and Ward Motts. Also present were Bob Pariseau, Director of Water Resources and Jason Skeels, Town Engineer.

Sewer Master Plan – The Committee reviewed a draft of the sewer needs assessment prepared by Camp, Dresser and McKee (CDM). The Committee provided recommendations to the Town on December 23, 2003. The Town forwarded these recommendations to CDM for inclusion in the assessment.

GIS Update – Jason Skeels gave the Committee an update on the status of GIS mapping and database preparation as it relates to the Lawrence Swamp Aquifer and surrounding area. Work is progressing well and the Committee is satisfied with the quality of the database being prepared.

Results of Water Quality Testing of Aquifer Monitoring Wells – The Committee reviewed the latest round water quality test results from the aquifer-monitoring program. This is a monitoring program that was set up to evaluate the quality and general health of the aquifer. All results indicate that the aquifer is in good health.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen B. Mabee